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EDITORIAL NOTES.

Unless all present indications are wrongly interpreted, the people of the State of California will be left with little if any public health protection after the next session of the legislature adjourns. There will possibly be an appropriation to carry on the plague work among squirrels, but this will be due to pressure from the Federal Government, if it is made at all. In the legislature will be a large number of legislators who are closely in touch with the eddyites and the "league for medical freedom." The hold-over senator who is considered the leader of the Southern California delegation, Gates, is a member of the advisory board, or whatever they call it, of the "league"; a prominent eddyite in Los Angeles has been nominated and will undoubtedly be elected; a number of other eddyites are also nominated or hold-overs. The attorney for a notorious quack in Oakland has been nominated and will be elected; he has already announced that he "is not going to do a thing" to the medical law! The present vaccination law will probably be repealed and it is possible that small-pox will be made only a reportable disease and not quarantinable. A number of persons have announced the intention to pass a reciprocity amendment that will practically mean no safeguard to the public; that any quack anywhere may come here and get a license. The crazy, unreasoning, fanatical opposition to anything that partakes of the nature of public health control, and which had its origin some four years ago, has grown tremendously. It looks very much as though the people would have to take their dose

of medicine before they can recover from the disease of unreason. It will not be a pleasant dose to take, but it may be the quickest way to get over the disease. A real good epidemic of small-pox and a considerable increase of rabies and poliomyelitis, with no attempt at control or quarantine, might help somewhat. If we, as a profession, undertake to oppose this movement actively, we at once make it worse, for those whose interests are against public health measures immediately cry out that the "doctors' trust" has been hurt and is fighting to get something. They cry so loud and so long that the unreasoning people believe them; the general run of people can not see where unrestricted disease hurts themselves and benefits (financially) the medical profession. About the only thing that it seems possible to do is to keep high standards in our medical societies; make careful inspection of applicants for membership; bring the members into closer harmony and greater scientific work; in general, make membership in a county medical society mean a badge of professional ability and standing. The unthinking run of people have been fooled into worshiping false gods; they will elect politicians who will betray the health interests of the people by destroying all the protective legislation that they can. But at least we can do something to preserve our own self-respect and our respect for our profession by active work in our medical societies and by keeping them clean, free from petty graft and from all other things for which we might have cause to be ashamed and by raising higher the standards required for admission. Make membership in a county medical society something for the thinking people to look upon as a badge of professional ability and respectability.

See advertising page xxvi of this issue for a special notice that will be of interest and value to you.

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